

Hafa Adai!

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. **PAGE 2**

United Song project hopes to feature CNMI talent. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pay hike for DPS officers pushed

Acting Department of Public Safety commissioner Anthony Macaranas says that, once his appointment is confirmed, his



Macaranas

first order of business is to look for ways to increase the salaries of police officers.

CNMI police officers continue to put up with the low salaries because of their commitment to the community they are

See PAY on Page 4

CUC comes up with payment plan for CHCC's \$60M arrears

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has come up with a payment plan for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to resolve the \$60 million it owes the utility agency, according to acting

CUC executive director Betty G. Terlaje at a CUC board meeting last Thursday.

This came on the heels of CUC board chair Janice A. Tenorio noting that the

memorandum of understanding between CUC and CHCC

See CUC on Page 4



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. fiscal budget and grants officer Joanne Paraiso discusses CUC's proposed budget for fiscal year 2025 during the CUC board's special meeting last Thursday. At the meeting, acting CUC executive director Betty T. Terlaje also talked about, among other issues, CUC's proposed payment schedule for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s utility billing arrears.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

In this screengrab from YouTube, Salina Sapp testifies last Friday before a House of Representatives special committee that is investigating the previous administration's Building Optimism, Opportunity and Stability grant program. Next to Sapp is her counsel, Joseph Horey.

» Former Finance chief Atalig is the next witness to testify tomorrow in BOOST Program investigation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A House of Representatives

special committee found Robert Travilla and his business partner, Salina Sapp, in contempt on Friday for

refusing to answer any questions—at the advice of their lawyer—relating to the previous administration's Building Optimism, Opportunity, and Stability Together grant program.

Travilla and Sapp, who are

See TRAVILLA on Page 4

Man arrested for hitting woman with rock over food stamp card

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

A man was arrested for allegedly hitting a woman on the head with a rock amid a heated argument regarding a

food stamp card.

Jose Celis Lizama, 54, has been charged with of assault with a dangerous weapon to include domestic violence, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

During a bail hearing last week, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed a \$20,000 cash bail on the defendant before remanding him back to Department of Corrections custody.

According to a Department of Public Safety report,

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INSIDE



LOCAL

The Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority shared their tourism education message with fourth graders at Oleai Elementary last March 6.

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LOCAL

The University of Guam celebrated its 56th Charter Day on Thursday, March 7, by welcoming the island community to a host of events.

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LIFE & STYLE

Krystyna Pyszková of the Czech Republic was crowned Miss World at a glittering contest held in India on Saturday night.

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Local

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

As part of efforts to promote inclusivity while celebrating those with developmental disorders, community members joined Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, and University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities last Monday at the Saipan World Resort for a proclamation signing that designates March as Developmental Disabilities

Awareness Month.

With Saipan Mayor Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho, Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog, and Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan also in attendance, many unsung heroes who both advocate and bring awareness to individuals who have special needs in the community witnessed the event.

During the proclamation signing, the 2024 Saipan Champions of Equal Opportunity were recognized, with Maria L. Olopai named as

Saipan Advocate of 2024, Jerry Diaz as Saipan Educator Advocate of 2024, Green Meadows School and Joeten Superstore as Saipan Employer Advocate of 2024, and Thomas John DLC Manglona as the Saipan Legislative Advocate.

The Saipan Family Advocate of 2024 is the Nicholas family, the Saipan Self-Advocate for 2024 is Efren Nicholas, and the 2024 Saipan Public/Private Business Advocate is Karidat Social Services.

The 2024 Tinian Champi-

ons of Equal Opportunity were Maria H. Aguon as the Tinian Advocate of 2024, Tracy Sanchez was named the Tinian Educator Advocate of 2024, the Tinian Employer Advocate of 2024 is Tinian Western Lodge, and Susan San Nicolas is the Tinian Family Advocate of 2024. The Tinian Public/Private Business Advocate of 2024 is the Tinian Municipal Council, and Cherry Mae Penaranda is the 2024 Tinian Self-Advocate.

Composing the 2024 Rota Champions of Equal Opportunity were Concepcion Ulloa as Rota Advocate of 2024, Sen. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota) as Rota Legislative Advocate 2024, the Rota Family Advocate is Pauline Manglona, Rota Employer Advocate of 2024 is Lucky Store, Doralynn Barcinas as 2024 Rota Educator Advocate, and the Rota Mayor's Office as the Rota Public/Private Business Advocate. The Rota Self-Advocate of 2024 is Rosemina Poll.

The 2024 NMC-UCEDD Heroes were also named, with Jonathan Aguon from Saipan and Henry H. San Nicolas Jr. Tinian as the awardees.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dignitaries, community members, and staff of agencies smile for a photo during the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month proclamation signing last Monday at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

With this year's theme "A world of Opportunities," these agencies and advocates hope that designating the month of March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month serves as a profound reminder that each individual, regardless of their abilities, has the right to be respected, embraced, and provided with

opportunities to succeed. They hope it encourages those with developmental disabilities to continue to dream and aspire and not let anything stop them, while also encouraging the island to continue to help support individuals with developmental disabilities and create a more understanding and inclusive community.

Rotary Club's Las Vegas Night returns May 11



CHRYSTAL MARINO

The Rotary Club of Saipan members discuss their upcoming Las Vegas Night this May 11, 2024, during their weekly meeting last Tuesday at the Crowne Plaza in Garapan.

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Rotary Club of Saipan is bringing back its popular Las Vegas Night this May 11 at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan.

Excitement ran high during its weekly meeting last Tuesday, as Rotarians discussed and prepared for their premiere fundraising event.

"Las Vegas Night: It's a big deal" will start at 11am, featuring games like a Texas Hold-Em poker tournament

and bingo happening concurrently, with table games like roulette and blackjack starting at 6pm and the event concluding at 11pm.

Tickets are \$20 each. Those with tickets will also have a chance to win awesome prizes, including door prizes.

The grand prize winner will take home a 2024 Mitsubishi Mirage Hatchback or \$10,000 in cash. The first place winner will get \$3,000; the second placer will win \$2,000; and the third place winner will win

See **ROTARY** on Page 4

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United Song project hopes to feature CNMI talent



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The United Song Project poster is inviting CNMI singers and musicians to join the multinational effort.

that this is a 100% non-profit project, with no money for anyone including myself. It is strictly an art project and the song will never be sold. It will always be available for free for anyone who wants to listen, download, or play it."

He said the project is more about representation and is totally non-profit.

When asked about the song itself, Helzer shared that the lyrics can be found on their website.

"The lyrics that you see on the web page are the basic lyrics for the song. Each person is given the choice to sing these lyrics or write their own (in the same theme) and sing them in any language. I wrote the lyrics and I wanted them to

be something everyone could relate to. The lyrics are an invitation for the entire world to sing along with us."

When it comes to the melody and chord progression, Helzer shared, "We also have a melody for the lyrics and we use these lyrics and melody so we can combine different voices together in harmony. Each person is given a recording of the melody and they can sing along to any part of the song that they like. We also

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By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A non-profit organization is calling all musicians and singers in the CNMI to vie for a spot to represent the islands in a project that aims to feature one singer or musician from every country in the world in a song.

The non-profit, simply called United Song, currently has 225 artists working from different locations around the world, with many in the Pacific involved, including Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Australia, Samoa, American Samoa, Fiji, and most recently, Guam, according to producer Eric Helzer.

Helzer told *Saipan Tribune* that he hopes someone from the Northern Marianas could be a part of the multinational production.

"We have been working on the project for four years now and we currently have 225 people from different locations involved. We only need

14 more people to complete the final song. Yes, we are only having one person per country/territory," he said.

As for who gets to be in the song once they reach out, Helzer said, "I reply to each person in the order that they contact me and there is no official audition. The project is open to anyone regardless of experience. There is also no drop date for the project because we do not know how long it will take to find the remaining people. We are all excited to complete the project and hope to do so soon but we cannot complete the song without everyone."

Helzer said, "I will also add

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the | FCD CN
Petitioner for the | CIVIL ACTION
Change of Name of: | NO. 24-0039

H.J.T.S. | NOTICE OF
Minor Child(ren) | HEARING

By: |

Maria Margarita |
T. Sakamoto |
Petitioner(s) |

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on April 22, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Honorable Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 6th day of March, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

allow for people to write their own lyrics (in the same theme) and they can sing them in any language. We will have sections of the song for these contributions. We use a portion of each person's contribution to create the final song."

Helzer said they also have many people playing instruments on the project.

"We have a basic recording track and welcome the addition of any instrument. As of right now, about half of our artists sing and the other half play instruments. The final song will be built from all of the contributions and everyone involved will get equal song-

writing credit."

With hundreds of musicians and vocalists from around the world on the project, Helzer shared that the project itself has already built a great community.

"We all stay connected in a Facebook group and have become a family by way of this project. We hope to find someone in CNMI that would enjoy being a part of a project like this."

To learn more, visit <https://theunitedsong.org/> or you can email theunitedsong@gmail.com. Helzer shared that he can also be reached at <https://www.facebook.com/goodlife.helzer.7>.



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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on October 24, 2023, **Kimberly Apatang Acebo**, an immediate family member of **David Mundo Apatang**, Lt. Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of individuals who meet the national objective of urgent need and are intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Lt. Governor, David M. Apatang, is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this grant application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhc.gov.net on or before **March 25, 2024**.

Dated this 11th day of March, 2024.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) hereby gives notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 8 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- Meeting Call to Order
- Determination of Quorum
- Review and Adoption of Agenda
- Review and Adoption of Minutes (02/21/2024)
- Public Comments
- Chairperson's Report
 - Senate Confirmation of Dr. Glenda George to the HCPLB
- Director's Report
 - Update on Dr. Marty Rohringer's Nomination Hearing
- Investigator's Report
- Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - Governor's Office
 - Legislature
- Old Business
- New Business
- Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - New Application
 - Renewal Application
- Miscellaneous Business
- Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
 - Update on Complaints
- Announcements
 - Next Meeting Date
 - Adjournment of Meeting

FEMA reimburses NMI \$24.1M in COVID-19 expenses

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Federal Emergency Management Agency informed the

CNMI's congressional office last week that another \$24.1 million in COVID-19 reimbursables are being turned over to the Commonwealth.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) disclosed in his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend that the original expense was used to shelter indi-

viduals quarantined during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sablan said the \$24,110,206 follows the \$21,433,668 that the CNMI received last Oc-

tober 2023 as reimbursement for the costs of maintaining a quarantine site for returning residents and visitors at the Marianas Resort during the pandemic, as well as the cost to set up testing and vaccination centers at Kanoa

Resort, the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Rota Health Center, and Tinian Health Center.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

HKPA withdraws motion for limited receivership vs. American Sinopan

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

H.K. Pangelinan & Associates LLC has withdrawn its motion for a limited receivership against American Sinopan LLC for the sale of the property developer's subleased properties to satisfy an over \$400,000 judgment granted in favor of HKPA.

HKPA's lawyer, Colin Thompson, withdrew last Thursday the motion asking

the U.S. District Court for the NMI to appoint Ronnie D. Hodges to serve as the limited receiver in its case against property developer American Sinopan.

Back in April 2022, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona issued a default judgement of \$477,000 against American Sinopan in the breach of contract case filed by HKPA.

Thompson withdrew his motion due to issues identified

by the court, but the court has yet to issue an official order detailing these issues.

According to court documents, HKPA, an architectural and engineering firm, sued property developer American Sinopan last April 2022.

HKPA claimed that American Sinopan did not pay for services rendered in designing the Saipan Garden Resort and Heaven II development projects worth over \$421,800 plus interest.

On April 4, 2021, HKPA filed a complaint and demand for jury trial against American Sinopan. On May 3, 2021, American Sinopan filed a motion to dismiss the case. On June 2, 2021, the court denied the defendant's motion to dismiss the complaint. The defendant filed its answer on June 16, 2021.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

TRAVILLA

From page 1

the vice president and president of Nonstop Corp., respectively, invoked their Fifth Amendment right in response to most of the questions of committee members and declined to provide answers to the questions. The Fifth Amendment protects people from self-incrimination.

At the start of Travilla and Sapp's testimonies, their lawyer, Joseph Horey, advised the Special Committee on Federal Assistance & Disaster-related

Funding that his clients Travilla and Sapp intend to invoke their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination and will decline to answer questions regarding the BOOST Program.

In separate motions, Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) moved to find Travilla and Sapp in contempt. Flores said Travilla and Sapp have repeatedly been asked questions and they have repeatedly refused to testify under oath and that their failure to respond is in violation of the law.

Flores further moved the special committee to notify House Speaker Edmund

S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) about the matter and ask him to send a statement of contempt to the CNMI Attorney General for further prosecution in CNMI courts.

Eight committee members voted "yes" to Flores' motion. They are Flores, committee chair Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), vice chair Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Vicente C. Camacho (D-Saipan), Diego Vincent F. Camacho (D-Saipan), and Rep. Angelo A. Camacho (Ind-Saipan).

Rep. Vincent S. Aldan (Ind-Saipan) was absent.

Yumul said former Department of Finance secretary David DLG. Atalig will be the next witness; he will to testify tomorrow, Tuesday, at 10am.

Travilla, Sapp, and Shayne Villanueva of Roil Soil, were in charge of marketing the BOOST Program. The committee had already found Villanueva in contempt for refusing to answer questions. He had also invoked the Fifth Amendment.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

MAN

From page 1

DPS received a call from a woman on Monday, Feb. 28, at around 11:32am asking for police assistance at a home in Chalan Kanoa.

Police Sgt. Bradford Peter, who responded to the call at around 11:34am, said that, as he approached the residence, he saw two men standing along the road and a woman shouted that Lizama assaulted her and was pointing at the defendant.

Peter said he secured Lizama in his police car before checking on the woman who

had shouted earlier. Peter said the alleged victim claims that Lizama had just arrived at her residence and started harassing her and her boyfriend about a food stamp card.

The victim accused Lizama of hitting her on the back of her head with a rock. Peter noted that he noticed a rock the size of a baseball in a grassy area across the residence with what seemed to be a bloodstain on it.

The victim was transported to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment while police officer Giancarlo Evangelista took photos of the rock before taking it in as evidence.

Police also spoke to the vic-

tim's boyfriend, who said Lizama had driven by their house earlier and called him names. Soon after, Lizama allegedly came back and got into an argument with his girlfriend over a food stamp card.

The victim's boyfriend also told police that Lizama allegedly slapped the victim multiple times before picking up a rock and hitting the victim multiple time behind the head.

In a follow up interview with the victim at CHCC, she said Lizama became angry because when he came looking for the food stamp card, she told him she had given it to his daughter.

She also told police that Lizama punched her several times before attempting to punch her boyfriend. She said she got in between the two men, leading to her getting punched again.

During this time, Lizama allegedly attempted to leave the home, but took with him a nearby cell phone, so the couple followed him to demand that he give the phone back.

This allegedly led to Lizama punching the victim again and while the victim's boyfriend tried to intervene, Lizama grabbed a rock and hit the victim about three or four times before throwing the rock as he heard the police coming.

"I'm so thankful to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang for nominating me to be the next commissioner for this department. I know there's going to be a lot of challenges I'm going to face, but I will work diligently with my command staff and... with the governor to let him know... what things I need to continue to run this department. As for the date of my confirmation, I haven't been given a date yet but hopefully soon," he said.

Macaranas was named acting DPS commissioner after former commissioner Clement Bermudes was asked to resign.

CUC

From page 1

will expire next month. Under the MOU—which was signed in May 2023—CHCC resumed paying its monthly bills starting with its April 2023 utility bill of \$525,000. CHCC agreed to continue to make regular, timely, and continuous payment like any regular paying utility consumers.

In April 2023, CHCC's outstanding arrears—overdue electric, power, wastewater, and late fees—have already reportedly reached \$53 million.

Terlaje told the board on Thursday that they need to meet with CHCC to talk about brokering another MOU. She said that, based on their books, as of Jan. 31, 2024, CHCC has \$60 million in arrears, and \$32.89 million is for charges.

Terlaje said under her proposed payment schedule with CHCC, if CHCC elects to pay the principal balance over a 10-year payment period, CUC would charge them no annual interest and require them to pay \$274,090 in monthly payment on top of the \$525,000 that they are paying for their current usage—for a total of \$799,090 monthly payments.

If CHCC wants to pay a lower amount, then it would be over a 20-year payment terms at 2% annual interest rate, Terlaje said. Under that payment term, CHCC will be required to pay \$166,000 monthly payment on top of the \$525,000 estimated current usage, for a total of \$691,000 monthly payments.

Terlaje has shared the proposed payment plan for CHCC with the U.S. Department of Justice. She said all the DOJ emphasized is that they want the arrears addressed.

She suggested it would be up to the CUC board if they are going to leave penalties out for now.

She said the board should approve both payment term options, then it would be for CHCC to select which option they want.

Terlaje said she recommends the 10-year payment plan to make this more doable as it is more convincing for CHCC not to pay interest.

She said the U.S. District Court for the NMI wants to see an MOU again so that CHCC can to keep current in their bills, on top of addressing the arrears.

"So we got to come up with something that will address the arrears," Terlaje said.

ROTARY

From page 2

\$1,000. Fourth placer will get \$500.

Door prizes can be availed by all ticket-holders at the event. Although there is no entrance fee, one must have a ticket in order to take part in the games and win raffle prizes.

Raffle tickets can be purchased from Rotarians, and if purchasing with a credit card, go to Megabyte Saipan and Paradise Dental Spa.

Curtis Dancoe, the club's double past president and current sergeant-at-arms, is the event chairman. He said they are excited to bring this event around once again. One of the iconic showcases of the night

will be the club's 31-inch roulette wheel, weighing an estimated 100 lbs.

"We've got a professional roulette wheel, which is actually the iconic part of Las Vegas Night. This is a real roulette wheel. It weighs over 100 lbs. It's 31 inches wide. It's the only roulette wheel on island, other than I guess [Imperial Pacific] had one, maybe. It's very iconic and very old. So, it's got a lot of patina on it," he said.

Since Las Vegas Night will happen on the day before Mother's Day, the event could be one of the places to bring mothers for a night out, Dancoe said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

PAY

From page 1

protecting, Macaranas said.

Because of this dedication, he said, his first act in office when confirmed by the Senate to serve as DPS' new commissioner will be to fight for salary increases for police officers.

"One of the issues that I look forward to tackling is re-examining the salary of police officers. Across the United States, this police department is the lowest paid, but because of our officers' commitment to doing the job, they continue to put in the effort by showing

up to work and doing what they need to do. As a leader, I need to fight to provide [officers] with extra incentives that continue to encourage them to come in. Also, I want to make [officers'] salaries attractive so we can continue to hire people," he said.

In addition, Macaranas said he is looking at finding ways to implement hazard pay for police officers.

"The police officers' role in the community is very critical. They are confronted with different scenarios out there. If other agencies are given benefits like hazardous pay, that's something I want to provide

for the officers on top of their salaries," he said.

Also, Macaranas said once he is officially DPS commissioner, promotions within the department will be forthcoming.

"I need to secure funding first. If promotions come... it means more work for these officers...so of course it comes with a salary increase. I want to make sure these officers are given the salary to match to motivate them to continue to do the job and to entice others to move up the ranks," he said.

As for his confirmation itself, Macaranas said he has not been given a date yet, but he is looking forward to it.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday Ta'Chu. May God bless you always. Wishing you a blessed birthday and many more to come. From your entire Tako family. Love you bulalala.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kilili gets \$12.9M for Marianas projects in FY24 funding bill

WASHINGTON, DC—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) says the fiscal 2024 spending bill the House passed Wednesday includes \$12,902,535 for 15 community projects he requested for the Marianas. The bill was negotiated among the House and Senate bipartisan leadership, along with the White House, and passed 339 to 85 with 83 Republicans voting against the measure.

“These 15 projects, submitted to me by various agencies in the Marianas, will make a real difference in the health and safety of our communities,” Sablan said. The projects to be funded are:

- \$1 million to the Department of Public Lands homestead infrastructure development in As Gonno,
- \$959,752 to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for PFAS granular activated carbon filter replacements,
- \$959,752 to CUC for Sadog Tasi wastewater treatment plant underground storage tank remediation,
- \$959,752 to CUC for the Dandan sewer line project,
- \$850,000 to the Commonwealth courts for courthouse security,
- \$1 million to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. for acquisition of magnetic

- resonance imaging equipment,
 - \$1 million to CHCC for a medical supplies warehouse, \$500,000 to CHCC for Phase III: 300kW solar photovoltaic integration,
 - \$500,000 for the Rota Public Market,
 - \$500,000 for Route 30 (Chalan Pale Arnold) safety improvements,
 - \$1,616,279 for Route 310 (Tapochao Road) construction,
 - \$850,000 for Route 33 (Beach Road) improvements,
 - \$850,000 for Route 36 (Bird Island lookout),
 - \$357,000 for SCBAs for Marianas airports,
 - \$1 million for a solar photo-voltaic system at the Commonwealth correctional facility.
- “I am grateful to all the Commonwealth agencies that submitted community project funding requests to me for fiscal 2024,” Sablan said. “The quality of the proposals and their clear impact on improving life for the people of the Marianas helped me make the case for this funding with congressional appropriators.”
- Sablan said his staff have already met with community groups to encourage project requests for fiscal 2025. The process for submitting the FY25 requests is expected to begin in the next weeks. *(PR)*



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
OF
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS
FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2024

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, **through the** Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an **estimated** \$1,550,603.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$980,125.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$489,268.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$81,210.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2024.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of persons. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single-family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention **and rapid re-housing** activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; NMC Campus Bldg. A, San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Sinapalo III Village, Rota, beginning December 13, 2023.

You may also obtain the application online at www.nmhcgov.net in the section titled “Community Planning Development (CDBG)”

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); NMC Bldg. A, San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Sinapalo III Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by **March 13, 2024, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 13, 2024, will not be accepted.**

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

February 14, 2024, 5:30 p.m. for the island of Saipan
February 15, 2024, 5:30 p.m. for the island of Tinian
February 16, 2024 5:30 p.m. for the island of Rota

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office at the NMC Campus, Building A; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor’s Office Conference Room in Tatachog.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, such as eligibility criteria and program requirements, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner at 234-6866 or 233-0076

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-24-013

PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF NEW GENSET
UNITS FOR SAIPAN, POWER PLANT NO.4

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Contractors or Vendors for the purchase and installation of new gensets for Power Plant No.4 located on the island of Saipan. The purchase and installation of the new gensets with approximately 6MW of total new output will improve CUC current power generation capacity needed to sustain critical electrical services to the community of Saipan.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package will be emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by March 8, 2024 to be considered.

A Pre-proposal Conference followed by site visits will be held on **February 22, 2024 at 10:00 AM (CHST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-RFP-24-013, Purchase and Installation of New Genset Units for Saipan Power Plant No.4”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 A.M.(ChST) on March 19, 2024**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 27, 2024**, to Manny Sablan, CUC’s Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, CUC’s Power Generation Manager via email richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC’s Senior Administrative Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-015

A-16 SEWER LIFT STATION UPGRADE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of the A-16 Sewer Lift Station Upgrade project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the installation of a new polymer pre-cast concrete wet well to replace the existing A-16 wet well; installation of OFCI submersible pumps and accessories; new aboveground valve station and appurtenances with concrete pad; installation of new bar screen to replace existing A-1 bar screen; rehabilitation of existing A-16 bar screen; installation of new gravity sewer mains and manholes; installation of H2S controls; reconnection to existing lift station force main; procurement of a portable pumping system with trailer and concrete pad; installation of temporary bypass pumping operations and dewatering; site improvements with new chain-link fence, two vehicular gates and a pedestrian gate; asphaltic concrete pavement driveways with partial compacted base course area; installation of new and replacement of existing gate valves; demolition of existing minor structures and electrical upgrade. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **Two Hundred Seventy (270) calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **February 27, 2024 at 10:00 AM (CHST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-24-015, A-16 SEWER LIFT STATION UPGRADE”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (CHST) March 14, 2024**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond **executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety**. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond **must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety**. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.*

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 (ChST) on March 1, 2024** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Nicolette Villagomez, CUC’s Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email at nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org, and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician – via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Navalny's funeral says Russian thirst for freedom still alive

Attending funerals generally is an act of compassion. On Friday in Moscow, attending the funeral of Aleksei A. Navalny, the Russian dissident widely assumed by international governments to have been murdered at the direction of Vladimir Putin, was an act of extraordinary courage.

Most of us have sacrificed a half-day of work to pay our respects to someone who was part of our lives. The thousands of Russians lighting a candle for Navalny, even as security officers prowled and newly installed security cameras watched, were risking their entire livelihoods and maybe even their lives. Friday's extraordinary events in and around the aptly named Church of the Icon of the Mother of God Soothe My Sorrows, which took place in defiance of a plethora of official warnings, should not go unnoticed nor unadmired. Even from 5,000 miles away.

They are a reminder that all tyrants, and Putin is a bear of one, must keep looking over their shoulder. They may have useful fools to aid in propaganda and the benefit of a state apparatus that conveys the illusion of omnipotence and arms against accountability. But they always have decent, courageous people to fear. And while you can eliminate the head of any body, the corpse they think they've sent firmly into the ground has a way of sprouting new arms and legs.

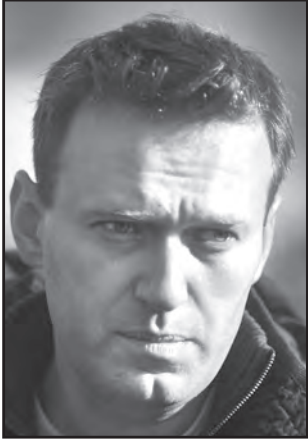
William Shakespeare understood this: "Unnatural deeds do breed unnatural troubles," prescribes the doctor in "Macbeth."

Try as she might, Lady Macbeth could not wash away the blood staining her hands, however far she walked in horror of her own deeds. Richard III, haunted by the ghosts of those he had killed, awoke with a start: "Give me another horse; bind up my wounds. Have mercy, Jesu!"

In Putin's Russia, funerals are one of the few remaining avenues to express dissent, albeit at a heavy risk, given that to Putin's goons, the enemy conveniently is showing itself all at once. On Friday, even the hearse and mortuary operators reportedly had faced threats that burying this one, dead man meant being targeted as an insurrectionist.

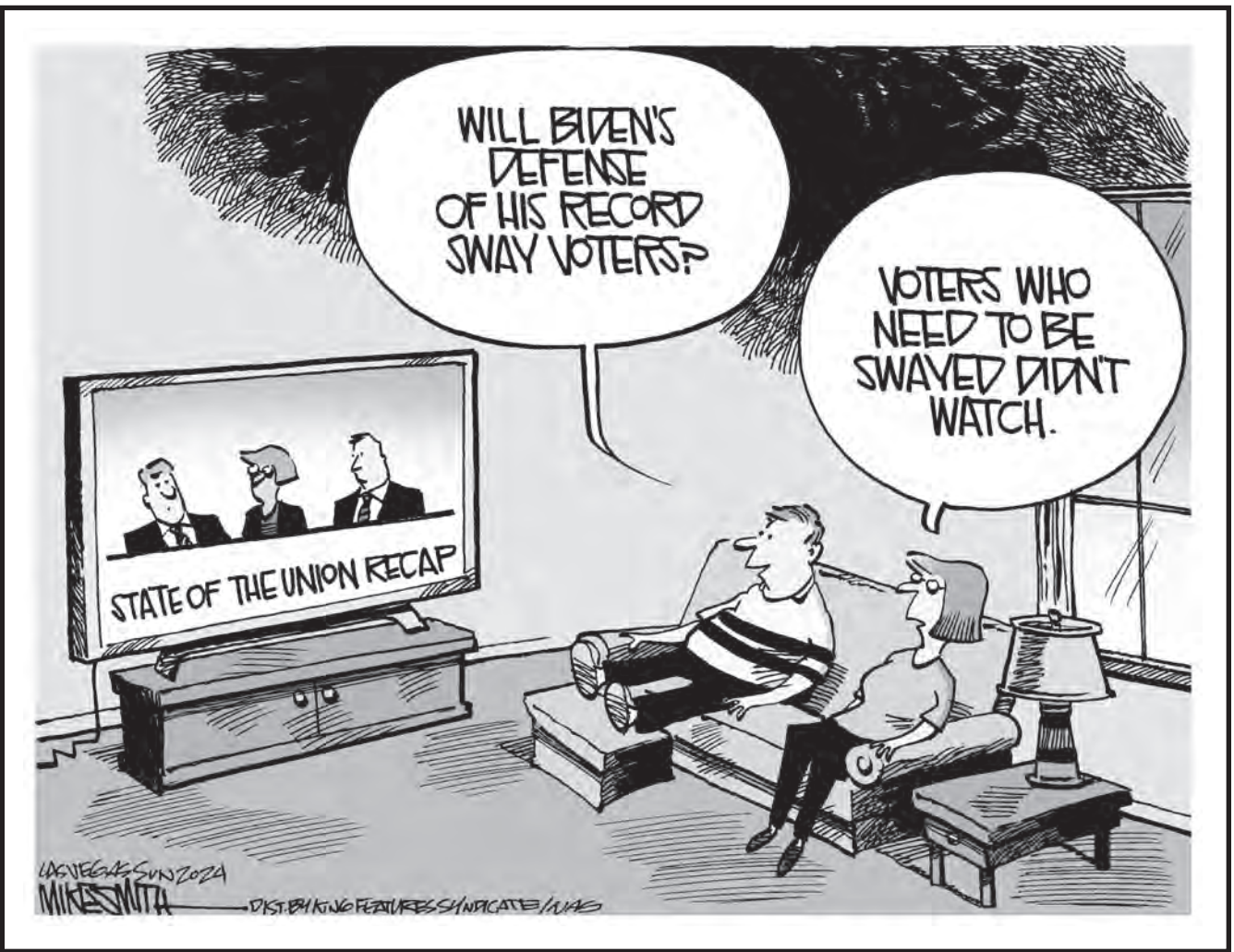
But thousands took that opportunity, such as it was, on Friday.

They mourned the leader they had lost. They declared love to be stronger than fear. They called for freedom for Russia. They were an inspiration.



Navalny

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If only Congress would focus on the deficit that matters

All the fearmongering in Washington over the \$1.5 trillion federal budget deficit hides a truth few politicians would admit—that hefty headline number you hear so much about is an unreliable measure of US fiscal health.

Savvy economists prefer what's known as the primary deficit, which is the overall shortfall minus what the government spends each year on interest payments. At \$637 billion, this measure is smaller, less frightening, in line with recent history and—more importantly—shrinking, having narrowed from \$1 trillion in 2023.

It's a shame that lawmakers don't focus their attention on the primary deficit, using that measure to help bridge the political divide and forging bipartisan solutions that will put the government on a fiscally sound and sustainable path. Instead, they bicker over less-than-meaningful numbers that threaten the US's "exorbitant privilege" in the global financial system by way of government shutdowns and reckless talk of not raising America's borrowing capacity—a move that would risk a catastrophic default.

Why does it make economic sense to focus on the primary deficit, which ignores federal interest payments? The answer is because tax revenue and interest rates can diverge - often with unexpected results. For example, a booming economy will increase tax revenue but also push up borrowing costs; a slowing economy would have the opposite effect on rates.

Think back to the early 1980s, when the budget and primary deficits were a similar percentage of gross domestic product as today and concern about the nation's fiscal situation was also elevated. In 1983, the primary and headline deficits were 3.3% and 5.7% of GDP, compared with 3.8% and 5.4% currently. And like now, the US was also emerging from a painful recession, during which GDP contracted faster and deeper than any time since the Great Depression only to begin a strong recovery that lasted six years, increasing government revenue. As a result, that primary deficit of 3.3% in 1983 became a primary surplus of 0.3% by 1989.

Total debt as a percentage of GDP was little changed, however, going from 38.9% of GDP to 38.5% as the rapidly growing economy kept interest rates relatively high. Federal interest payments grew as a percentage of the economy from 2.5% of GDP in 1983 to 3% in 1989. As a result, the headline deficit in 1989 was 2.7% of GDP, much higher than the post-war average of 1.2% of GDP at the time. If you had judged the country's fiscal health based on the headline deficit alone, you would have thought the US went from the worst shape since WWII in 1983 to merely bad shape in 1989. In fact, America's fiscal health had stabilized, debt was no longer

By **KARL W. SMITH**
Bloomberg Opinion

Karl W. Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. Previously, he was vice president for federal policy at the Tax Foundation and assistant professor of economics at the University of North Carolina.



growing as a percentage of GDP and the stage had been set for the massive surpluses of the 1990s.

Just as the primary deficit—or more accurately surplus—would have been a much more accurate indicator of America's fiscal health in 1989, so too is it likely a more accurate measure of US fiscal health today. The bipartisan Congressional Budget Office projects that the primary deficit will come in at 2.3% of GDP this year and shrink to 2.1% by 2034 – which is a very manageable figure from a debt management perspective. As for the headline deficit, the CBO projects that to be 5.3% of GDP this year, expanding to 6.2% by 2034.

Just like in the 1980s, the headline deficit may prove to be an unreliable indicator. The economy has rebounded strongly following the early days of the pandemic, driving up borrowing costs and federal interest payments. Rising interest expenses rather than increases in government spending are mostly why the headline deficit is wider today than in 2019.

This is not to say that rising federal interest payments aren't a burden on government finances, and at 2.8% of GDP they are closing in on their peak of 3% in 1995. The upside is that indicators of the US's ability to pay its \$34 trillion of debt debts, such as robust demand for Treasury securities by foreign investors and a strong and stable dollar, suggest that America's creditors are not worried. Moreover, the CBO is bad at forecasting interest rates. Over the last 40 years, interest payments have been half of what it forecasted on average. That suggests their current projection of interest payments is likely overly pessimistic.

Lawmakers should look to the primary deficit to gauge the nation's fiscal health. This measure indicates that while not perfect, the US's fiscal health is better than before the pandemic. What's more the economy has grown faster than most forecasts. If the trend continues, then even the modest primary deficits the CBO is forecasting may be an overstatement. The US could be on the cusp of a repeat of the 1980s when rapidly growing revenues brought the primary deficit swiftly into balance.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

US is turning its back on the world with or without Trump

It's one of the classic lines in America cinema. In Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Paul Newman and Robert Redford are cornered by a posse of lawmen, and the only escape is to leap from a cliff into the river below. When Sundance says he won't jump, because he can't swim, Butch reassures him: "The fall will probably kill you."

It's a sad metaphor for US foreign policy. As Donald Trump marches toward the Republican presidential nomination, it's only natural to wonder what will happen if the US is once again led by an erratic, impulsive and frequently destructive president. But speculating about Trump's impact is like wondering what happens after a precipitous plunge.

The great crisis of US foreign policy isn't something that will materialize only if Trump wins in November. It's happening right now, as America struggles to provide the aid an embattled Ukraine needs to survive.

On Capitol Hill, there doesn't seem any great urgency. A vital funding resolution has been postponed, first by protracted negotiations in the Senate—on a deal combining border security with Ukraine aid—that ultimately went nowhere, then by a two-week recess the Republican-led House took after receiving the bill the Senate eventually passed, and then by the latest frenzied efforts to keep the US government running for a few more weeks. As Washington dithers, the battlefield effects pile up.

The eastern city of Avdiivka fell late last month because Ukrainian forces lacked the shells and bullets needed to stop unending Russian attacks. Now, Moscow is pressing onward. Russia's air force, which previously played a limited, unimpressive role in this war, is getting into the fight by pulverizing areas into which the Russian army can then advance. President Vladimir Putin's planes would, of course, be very vulnerable to Ukraine's air defenses — if Ukraine still had enough of these systems to keep the Russian air force at bay.

For Ukraine, the costs of a shortfall in US aid aren't prospective or hypothetical. They are real, and they are mounting by the day, in lives and territory lost. Put bluntly, we are seeing how Ukraine loses this war—not because of some brilliant Russian blitzkrieg, but because of the incremental accumulation of setbacks that deprive the country of any hope of victory, and thereby force it to accept a peace that is effectively a strategic defeat.

Which brings us back to US policy. At the Munich Security Conference last month, and in capitals around the world, the specter of a Trump revival has been weighing on US allies. And for good reason, given that Trump is doing all the same things—talking about throwing allies to the wolves, fantasizing about an assault on America's democratic institutions—that alarmed so many US friends the first time around. But the Ukraine impasse should be even more alarming to those who depend on the US for their safety.

That's because it's hard to believe America will send its men and women to defend US allies when the next crisis comes, if it won't even send money and arms to support Ukraine in a conflict that hasn't killed a single US service member. The Ukraine impasse also shows that the rot in the US political system goes deeper than the rantings of a rogue president.

Yes, Trump has played his shameful part in the Ukraine debate: His resistance to fixing America's southern border, because he wants to run on that issue in November, helped tank the bipartisan agreement Senate dealmakers produced. His opposition to Ukraine aid is emboldening his MAGA allies, and frightening internationalist Republicans, in the House right now.

But the current debate demonstrates that the US political system can be paralyzed on critical strategic issues even when America's president has described Ukraine as the central front in a great struggle between autocracy and democracy, and

By **HAL BRANDS**

Bloomberg Opinion

Hal Brands is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist and the Henry Kissinger Distinguished Professor at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. Brands is also a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, the co-author of Danger Zone: The Coming Conflict with China and a member of the State Department's Foreign Affairs Policy Board. He is a senior adviser to Macro Advisory Partners.



when even a solid majority of House and Senate legislators favor giving that country support. If this is the best the US can do under Joe Biden, it won't take a second Trump presidency to cast America's global role into doubt.

In a recent essay for Foreign Affairs, former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates argued that US political dysfunction is abetting geopolitical instability—that a divided America lacks the constancy and commitment needed to hold back the forces of global disorder. The longer the Ukraine impasse continues, the more prescient that warning looks.

We live in an era when many longtime verities of global affairs—the advance of democracy, the absence of great-power war, the relative stability of key regions—are coming into question. So is the uber-verity that underpins all the others: That America's political system, for all its foibles and absurdities, will eventually produce policies that nudge the world in a positive direction. Whatever happens in November, the Ukraine aid stalemate is sobering because it gives America's friends, and its enemies, a preview of what the world will look when that's no longer the case. It could be a very long way down.

Make this your year for civic resolutions

If you failed to visit the gym, cut back on sweets or start a new hobby in January, never fear. Experts say it's best to make resolutions a little later in any case. And the most important resolutions you make in 2024 may be less about self-help than about the nation as a whole.

There's never been a better year, in fact, for civic resolutions. You may not believe, in these dark times, that your civic pledges can make much difference. But civic life is a muscle, and you can resolve to strengthen it every day—just as you might set out to practice a sport or a musical instrument.

At The Civic Circle, the nonprofit where I teach civic skills to young students, we've identified seven simple "steps to democracy" and boiled each one down to a single word: listen, learn, choose, join, speak, act and lead. In other words, be civil, inform yourself, vote, help someone, speak up, take action and be your best self.

I'll share more about these seven steps, but first, a word about why civic resolutions matter so much this year. Americans are despairing about the future. Whether it's because of war, global warming, disunity, inequity, or all of the above, many feel lost and overwhelmed.

This poses a bigger threat to democracy than any one politician, party or trend. When people lose hope, and the faith that their actions can make a difference, they retreat into cynicism, nihilism, and isolation. Better to circle the wagons, tune out the news and escape into family or work, the thinking goes, than to join the fray.

Yet democracy depends on public participation, and the bad actors know that. A leading objective of Russia-style disinformation is to foment what Jonathan Rauch has called "the firehose of falsehood." The purpose is not to forward any one particular untruth, but to throw out so many conflicting and crazy claims that people no longer know what to believe, or what they might do about it.

So what's the solution? With civic resolutions, you can take practical steps to improve democracy right here, today, as an average citizen in your daily life. The point is to make a habit of building your civic muscles in the same way you might practice any other daily discipline. Here's how:

Listen. Listening doesn't simply mean stop talking and open your ears. It means practicing civility and respect, even when you disagree. From Braver Angels to Living Room Conversations, there are more than 500 groups hosting cross-partisan events around the country every day. These are easy to find and sign up for. As Mother Teresa put it, "If we truly want peace in the world, let us begin by loving one another in our own families."

Learn. If you're one of the 50% of adult Americans who get their news "often" or "sometimes" from social media, resolve to branch out. Social media channels are rife with falsehoods and disinformation, and artificial intelligence is twisting the facts even further. Seek out reliable news sources, and subscribe to a local (or mainstream) newspaper. You'll be doing your part to reverse the demise of media institutions that help keep public officials accountable.

Choose. Voting is the most direct expression of civic power in democracy, yet in the 2022 election fewer than half (46.6%) of voting-eligible Americans turned out. In a year when more than half of Americans (62%) believe democracy in the United States could be at risk depending on the outcome of the election, voting should be civic resolution No. 1.

Join. Amid a national mental health and loneliness crisis, experts say surprisingly little about the health value of volunteering and helping others. Yet the physical and mental health benefits of volunteering are well established. Whatever your interests, there are dozens of sites that can get you started.

Speak. When was the last time you went to a candidate forum or a town council or school board meeting? If you don't

By **ELIZA NEWLIN CARNEY**

The Fulcrum

Eliza Newlin Carney runs The Civic Circle, which uses music and the arts to empower young students to understand and participate in democracy.



know who your local and national elected officials are, resolve to find out—and write, call or connect with them in person.

Act. Whether you care about traffic, earthworms or pickleball, there is an association for you. Advocacy and trade groups get a bad rap in a culture where the term "lobbyist" is an insult. But one person's special interest is another person's passion. Resolve to join with others who share your interests and concerns.

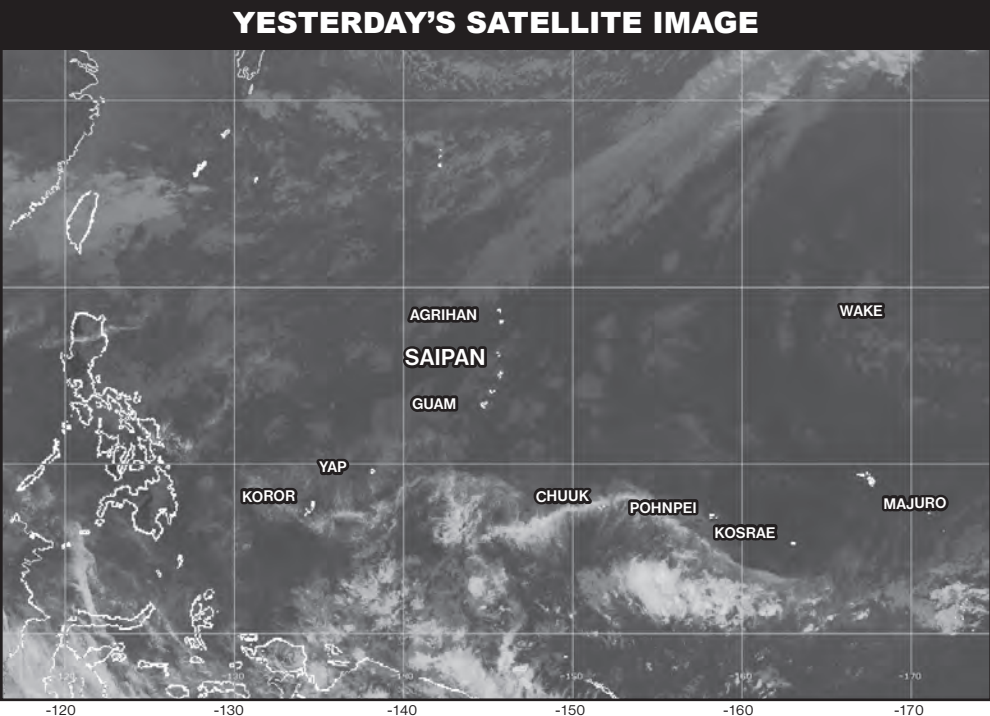
Lead. If elected officials are ignoring you, your ultimate recourse is to run for office yourself. But it's not the only way to be a leader. When asked what it means to lead, Civic Circle students sometimes reply: It means to listen. This takes them full circle, right back to the first step to democracy. It's not a bad place to begin.

Democracy is not some far-off realm presided over by experts, politicians and activists. It is something we practice every day, in our ongoing interactions with those around us, in the choices we make about what to read or watch, and how we spend our time.

When you resolve to be a participant, not a spoiler, in civic life, you focus on solutions, not problems. You spend less time wallowing in despair, and more time taking actions, however small, that help pull democracy back from the brink. Whatever your civic resolutions, don't procrastinate, as you may have in getting to the gym last month. By this time next year, it may be too late.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.		Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
85	76°	85	76°	85	76°	85	76°	85	76°



PICTURE TIME: 7:19 AM SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly sunny skies and widely scattered showers moving through the Marianas this morning. The Tanapag buoy shows combined seas of 4 to 6 feet, which look to increase over the next few days.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 75°	
Palau	Sunny	85° / 78°	
Yap	Sunny	86° / 80°	
Chuuk	Sunny	86° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Kosrae	Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:27 AM	6:26 PM
Tuesday	6:26 AM	6:26 PM
Wednesday	6:26 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:58 AM	7:22 PM	-
Tuesday	7:41 AM	8:21 PM	-
Wednesday	8:25 AM	9:21 PM	-
Thursday	9:10 AM	10:22 PM	-
Friday	9:58 AM	11:23 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Cloudy	71° / 55°	
Beijing	Fair	48° / 26°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	76° / 61°	
Honolulu	Showers	79° / 69°	
London	Showers	46° / 36°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	77° / 56°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	91° / 77°	
Melbourne	Showers	66° / 57°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	84° / 73°	
New York	Rain Shower	49° / 46°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	51° / 43°	
Paris	Showers	52° / 39°	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	50° / 41°	
Rome	Showers	57° / 45°	
Salem	Rain	58° / 45°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	58° / 52°	
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	51° / 36°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	49° / 42°	
Washington, DC	Rain Shower	54° / 50°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
7:07 AM	High Tide	1.81	
12:23 PM	Low Tide	1.10	
5:26 PM	High Tide	1.87	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2024				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	
UA193	7:50PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				
7C3403/2305	4:40AM	10:20PM	Daily	
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				
TW308	2:15AM	6:10AM	Daily	
7C3403	4:40AM	8:35AM	Daily	
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	
ARRIVALS				
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily	
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7	
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
UA189	00:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6	
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily	
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau	
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7	
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA189/174	00:40AM	8:45AM+1	3, 6 via Guam	
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam	
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam	
7C2306/3406	11:15PM	3:30PM+1	Daily	
INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN				
7C3462	08:00AM	1:30PM	Daily Feb 7-16 only	
7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily	
TW307	7:45PM	1:15AM+1	Daily	
7C3404	10:15PM	3:35AM+1	Daily	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.						
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024						
SAIPAN TO ROTA						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily	
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily	
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily	
ROTA TO SAIPAN						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily	
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday	
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday	
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily	
ROTA TO GUAM						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday	
GUAM TO ROTA						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday	
SAIPAN TO TINIAN						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily	
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily	
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily	
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily	
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily	
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily	
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily	
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily	
TINIAN TO SAIPAN						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily	
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily	
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily	
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily	
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily	
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily	
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily	
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily	

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Oleai Elementary 4th graders learn about tourism

The Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority shared their tourism education message with fourth graders at Oleai Elementary School last March 6.

The outreach team is engaging 4th graders, 7th graders, and 10th graders this year on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota with information and activities highlighting the Marianas' primary economic driver, how it impacts their lives, and ways students can support tourism even at a young age. The presentation also includes an overview of programs and activities of the MVA, including its annual signature events like this month's Tinian Hot Pepper Festival and Saipan Marathon 2024 last Saturday.

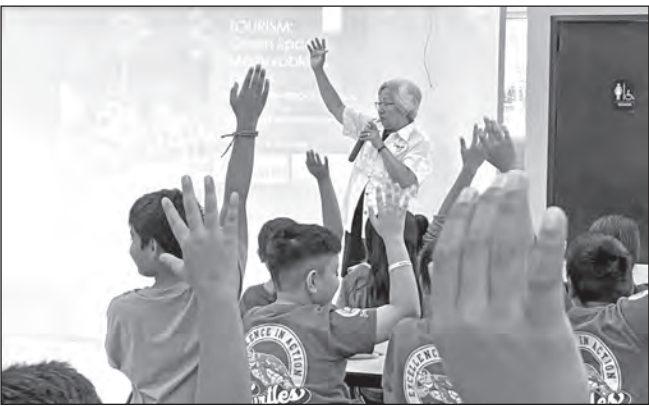
Fourth grade teacher Esther Manzano commented that her students "learned a lot of new

things" and were also "surprised about Pagan's black sand and the other beautiful attractions in the CNMI."

Roselle Carreon, also a 4th grade teacher for more than 20 years, said her "students learned about the connection between tourism and the islands' economy."

In line with this year's school outreach theme, "Green Spaces, Memorable Places/*Kāmpun Betdi, Kāmpun Rikuetdu/Llingil Leyil Waliwal*," MTEC highlighted the importance of the Marianas' natural beauty in attracting visitors.

The presentation was made by MTEC chair Vicky Benavente and she was joined by MTEC board member Catherine Perry at the presentation. Other MTEC board members are vice chair Glenn Policare (Kanoa Resort), sec-



MTEC Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente engages 4th graders of Oleai Elementary during the educational outreach presentation of MTEC and the Marianas Visitors Authority on March 6, 2024, at the school.

retary Martin Duenas (MVA), (CNMI Public School System), Larissa Larson, Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero (Northern Marianas College), Dr. Yunzi Zhang (Northern Marianas College), Larry Lee, Naomi Nishimura

UAF names fall 2023 honors students

FAIRBANKS, AK—The University of Alaska Fairbanks has announced the students named to the deans' and chancellor's lists for the fall 2023 semester.

The lists recognize students' outstanding academic achievements and includes Carla Dael Sablan of Saipan in the chancellor's list and Ana Ada in the deans' list.

Students receiving a 3.9 grade point average or higher are placed on the chancellor's list, while those receiving a grade point average of between 3.5 and 3.89 are named to the deans' list.

UAF is a Land, Sea and Space Grant institution and

is the leading doctoral degree-granting institution in the state of Alaska. Since it was founded in 1917, UAF has been internationally recognized for research relating to the Arctic and sub-Arctic in areas such as biology, geophysics, engineering, natural resources and global climate change. (PR)

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Rov Doria Balanque | FCD-DI CIVIL
Petitioner, | ACTION NO. 23-0215
vs. |
|
Noeme Lucerna Balanque |
Respondent, |

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:
NOEME LUCERNA BALANQUE

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 7623 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 14th day of February, 2024.

/s/
Clerk of Court



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055

Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

AMENDED JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 04-2024

Opening date: March 04, 2024 Closing date: March 22, 2024

Location: SAIPAN

Position(s): (2) AOA Controller-I
(1) ARFF Mechanic II
(1) Comptroller
(1) Custodial
(1) Master Electrician
(1) Procurement Technician
(1) Receptionist/Secretary
(1) Safety Officer/Quality Control Specialist

Location: TINIAN

Position(s): (1) General Maintenance

Location: ROTA

Position(s): (1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I
(2) Custodial/Maintenance-I

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, March 22, 2024**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerity, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Schools interested in starting a MY WAVE Club to engage students with tourism may contact MVA Commu-

nity Projects specialist Jack Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or (670) 664-3200 for more information. (PR)



MTEC Fourth graders at Oleai Elementary learn about tourism from Marianas Tourism Education Council board member Catherine Perry during the educational outreach of MTEC and the Marianas Visitors Authority on March 6, 2024, at the school.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: DPW24-RFP No.: 42400058

SUBMISSION DATE: March 27, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“Engineering and Design Related Services Coastal Retreat for Atkins-Kroll Intersection and Dotse Place, Saipan”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **February 27, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **March 14, 2024**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 20, 2024** to **Mr. George C. Sablan, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
Secretary, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: February 29, 2024 CLOSING DATE: March 15, 2024 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:
2024-006	Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	\$90,000.00 to \$100,000.00 per annum (UNGRADED)

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

UOG welcomes island residents to 56th Charter Day festivities

The University of Guam celebrated its 56th Charter Day on Thursday, March 7, by welcoming the island community to a host of events showcasing student successes, cultural performances highlighting the diversity of the campus student community, food, fun and games, and welcoming back alumni.

Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio, island senators, members of the diplomatic community on the island, and other dignitaries joined the celebration in the Center Courtyard.

It was a celebration that also highlighted the university's role in Guam and the region as the primary destination for higher education and for developing a professional workforce that has helped sustain the economic growth of the region.

"When we do invest in our students, we are investing into a future that is going to take



UOG University of Guam president Anita Borja Enriquez, right, is joined by Student Government Association president Kyona Rivera in the Center Courtyard at the University of Guam.

care of us in the spirit of *Inafa' Maolek*, which means bringing everything into harmony," said UOG president Anita Borja Enriquez.

The 20,000 UOG alumni in Guam, the region, the U.S. mainland, and globally, offer



UOG Performers from the Yap Student Organization showcased traditional dance and chant during the 56th Charter Day at the University of Guam on Thursday, March 7.



UOG The Chuuk Student Organization presents a traditional way of welcoming guests in Chuukese culture at the 56th Charter Day at the University of Guam on Thursday, March 7.



UOG The College of Natural and Applied Sciences showcases science programs to students on field trips at the 56th Charter Day at the University of Guam on Thursday, March 7.



UOG Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio, the University of Guam leadership, Student Government Association members, and others gather for a group photo at the opening ceremony for the 56th Charter Day at UOG on Thursday, March 7.



UOG Students from Daniel L. Perez Elementary School in Yigo take a field trip to the 56th Charter Day at the University of Guam on Thursday, March 7.



UOG Students on field trips and other attendees check out displays at the 56th Charter Day at the University of Guam on Thursday, March 7.

stories of the transformative power of a University of Guam degree, Enriquez said. "It fills my heart knowing that it is because of our institution of higher education that we can transform the lives of our students and their families and advance the community in which we live, work and play."

Leon Guerrero, in a speech at the Charter Day opening ceremony, said she highlighted UOG in her State of the Island Speech Tuesday evening. "Education is the lifeline of success and what this university has done is more than amazing and has gone way beyond its thinking out-of-the-box to provide an educated workforce," the governor said.

Charter Day also provides opportunities to focus on the island cultures of our region. The annual CHamoru Language Competition was held

in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Lecture Hall with 500 participants from Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. In the Center Courtyard, UOG students representing Yap, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Chuuk and the Republic of Palau showcased their respective cultures through performances. Students also participated in a hut-building competition.

"Today, we're showcasing a lot of things that remind us of home in Chuuk," said Nepeheniong "Nepe" Andrew May, a sophomore in the Business Administration program, and an adviser and past president of the Chuuk Student Organization. The organization replicated a hut that shows how traditional chiefs in Chuuk welcome guests in a community hut.

"The University of Guam is filled with students who



UOG The Triton Store was among the vendors in the Center Courtyard at the 56th Charter Day at the University of Guam on Thursday, March 7.

welcome people from different cultures and different places and that's why I feel very welcome here," May said. "There's not a time when I felt like I'm not a part of the community."

In the hut competition,

the Yap Student Organization won first place; Chuuk Student Organization placed second; Pohnpei Student Organization, took third place; and the Society of American Military Engineers, Student Chapter, placed fourth. (PR)



UOG The Yap Student Organization won first place in the hut-building competition. Chuuk Student Organization placed second; Pohnpei Student Organization took third place; and the Society of American Military Engineers, Student Chapter, placed fourth.

Radewagen: Appropriations bill includes \$3M for ASCC, grant funding

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) is highlighting bipartisan passage of an appropriations package of legislation, the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2024, that funds several major departments of the U.S. government for the year, including the Interior Department, which encompasses the Office of Insular Affairs. The legislation passed 339-85.

This year's DOI appropriations bill preserves American Samoa's DOI operations funding at \$28.2 million, de-

spite cuts elsewhere throughout the overall OIA budget at the nationwide level. Notably, the bill stipulates \$3 million of these funds to American Samoa Community College operations, at Radewagen's request, with DOI Appropriations report language stating "not less than \$3,000,000 be allocated for the community college."

"Despite the budgeting wrangling in Washington, and despite cuts throughout other areas in this bill, we fully preserved the \$5.4 million in yearly gains we've made over



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) with House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) in the U.S. House of Representatives.

the past six straight years of increases," said Radewagen. "I'm especially pleased that the direction of Congress is that at least \$3 million of these go to support our educational efforts and facilities at ASCC. Year after year, we've preserved or increased our DOI operations funds despite common administration recommendations that would have reduced our share."

Also important in American Samoa, this first funding package fully funds the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and military construction;

the Department of Agriculture, including food and nutrition programs it supports; Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies; Energy and Water Development; Transportation, Housing and Urban Development; and Interior, Environment and Related Agencies.

"In addition to OIA, these federal departments fund grants providing services in American Samoa," said Radewagen. "It will be good to have the stability of these funds in place for the year, and I'm optimistic the sec-

ond appropriations package will soon be passed as well."

The remaining departments, including Defense, State, and Health and Human Services are in a second package yet to be voted on this month. That portion of the government remains funded temporarily by a former Continuing Resolution that ends March 22, requiring an upcoming vote on those appropriations. Full government funding requires passage of 12 major appropriations bills in all, being considered in two packages. (PR)

Coast Guard strengthens ties with RMI Sea Patrol, Australian Pacific Maritime Security Program in Majuro

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam personnel conducted a series of engagements in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, from Jan. 24 to 29, 2024.

This visit marks a continuation of efforts to enhance the U.S. Coast Guard's positive relationship with the Marshall Islands, particularly its maritime law enforcement entity, the RMI Sea Patrol. This trip highlights the enduring partnership between the U.S. Coast Guard, its Pacific Island partners under the Compact of Free Association, and the resident U.S. State Department team.

In Majuro, Cmdr. Ryan Crose, response department head, and Lt. Cmdr. Christine Igisomar, COFA maritime advisor, officially presented Marshall Islands Police Commissioner George Lanwi and Lt. Cmdr. Lachlan Sommerville, the Royal Australian Navy's Maritime Security Advisor to the RMI Sea Patrol, with invitations for the inaugural Patrol Boat Round Up in Guam this summer. The event is an opportunity to bring together like-minded partners in Micronesia and share best practices in seamanship, damage control, and at-sea law enforcement over a week. Events will also include opportunities for



USCG
In Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, on Jan. 26, 2024, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam's Cmdr. Ryan Crose, response department head, and Lt. Cmdr. Christine Igisomar, COFA maritime advisor, stand for a photo with Lt. Cmdr. Lachlan Sommerville, the Royal Australian Navy's Maritime Security Advisor to the RMI Sea Patrol, and members of the RMI Sea Patrol.

fellowship, such as sporting events, hikes, and cookouts.

The U.S. Coast Guard is honored to invite the Republic of Palau's Division of Maritime Law Enforcement and the Federated States of Micronesia's Maritime Wing to join as critical partners for this event. Their participation, along with RMI's Sea Patrol, means over 100 maritime professionals from five countries could be present and underscores the collaborative spirit of this gathering in Guam.

"Since their commissioning, our three fast response cutters out of Guam have traversed the Micronesian

region multiple times and are always met with the greatest hospitality," stated Crose. "Our ship crews are continually impressed with the caliber of the members of the maritime forces of all three COFA states, and it's only fitting that we invite them to our home and reciprocate that hospitality."

While in Majuro, Crose and Igisomar represented the U.S. Coast Guard at the Australia Day celebration in

Majuro and spent time with Dr. Hilda Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands; Kalani Kaneko Jr., minister of Foreign Affairs; Sen. David Kramer; and the Australian Ambassador to the RMI, Paul Wilson, and members of the U.S. Embassy team. The Australia National Day is observed annually on Jan. 26. It is an opportunity for Australians to celebrate all the things they love about their country: land, a sense of



USCG
In Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, on Jan. 26, 2024, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam's Cmdr. Ryan Crose, response department head, and Lt. Cmdr. Christine Igisomar, COFA maritime advisor, officially presented Marshall Islands Police Commissioner George Lanwi and Lt. Cmdr. Lachlan Sommerville, the Royal Australian Navy's Maritime Security Advisor to the RMI Sea Patrol, with invitations for the inaugural Patrol Boat Round Up in Guam to be held summer 2024.



USCG
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fair go, lifestyle, democracy, freedom, people, and their various cultures, traditions, and belief systems.

Igisomar reflected on the U.S.-Australia partnership, stating, "In the past few years, our team in Guam really leaned into the positive working relationship with our Australia Maritime Security Advisors. The value of Australia's Pacific Maritime Security Program support cannot be understated. It enables the maritime forces in the COFA states, and we augment their efforts as a coast guard. Together, we support the COFA states' desire for increased maritime domain

awareness and sovereignty over the waters that rightfully belong to them. Inviting us to Australia Day showcases how we truly are walking in step with each other."

The U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam team focuses on maritime safety, security, and stewardship in Oceania. With a primary presence in Guam and Saipan and over 300 members across Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the team maintains a strong U.S. presence in the Micronesia sub-region and adjacent areas, closely tied to local communities. (USCG)



USCG
U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam's Cmdr. Ryan Crose, response department head, meets with Lt. Cmdr. Lachlan Sommerville, the Royal Australian Navy's maritime security advisor to the RMI Sea Patrol, during a visit on Jan. 26, 2024, in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands.



USCG
In Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, on Jan. 26, 2024, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam's Cmdr. Ryan Crose, response department head, and Lt. Cmdr. Christine Igisomar, COFA maritime advisor, represented the U.S. Coast Guard at Australia Day celebration in Majuro and spent time with her Dr. Hilda Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands; Kalani Kaneko Jr., Minister of Foreign Affairs; Senator David Kramer; and the Australian Ambassador to the RMI, Paul Wilson, and members of the U.S. Embassy team.

Life & Style

Czech Republic's Krystyna Pyszková is crowned Miss World in India

MUMBAI, India (AP)—Krystyna Pyszková of the Czech Republic was crowned Miss World at a glittering contest held in India on Saturday night.

Yasmina Zaytoon of Lebanon was the first runner-up among 112 contestants in the competition held in Mumbai, India's financial and entertainment capital.

"Being crowned Miss World is a dream come true. I am deeply honored to represent my country and the values of 'beauty with a purpose' on a global platform," Pyszkova said.

After the reigning Miss World, Karoline Bielawska of Poland, passed the crown to her, Pyszková waved to the large crowd at the Jio World Convention Center



Krystyna Pyszková of Czech Republic waves after she was crowned Miss World in Mumbai, India, Saturday, Mar. 9, 2024.

and hugged some of the other contestants.

The event showcased the rich tapestry of India's culture, traditions, heritage, arts and crafts, and textiles to a massive global audience. The participants wore heavily embroidered skirts and blouses and danced to popular Bollywood songs.

The beauty competition returned to India for the first time in 28 years.

India's Sini Shetty exited

after making it to the final eight. Six Indian women have won the title, including Reita Faria (1966), Aishwarya Rai (1994), Diana Hayden (1997), Yukta Mookhey (1999), Priyanka Chopra (2000) and Manushi Chhillar (2017).

The 71st Miss World beauty pageant was hosted by Bollywood filmmaker Karan Johar and Miss World 2013 Megan Young from the Philippines.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Natalie Portman and Benjamin Millepied divorce after 11 years of marriage

NEW YORK (AP) — Natalie Portman and Benjamin Millepied have divorced after 11 years of marriage and two children. The Oscar-winning actor and Millepied, a choreographer and director, finalized the divorce last month in France, where they live, People magazine reported, citing a representative for Portman. A representative for Portman declined comment on the record to The Associated Press. Representatives for Millepied did not immediately respond to requests for comment. According to People, Portman, 42, filed for divorce from Millepied, 46, eight months ago. Portman and Millepied met on the set of 2010's "Black Swan," Darren Aronofsky's ballet film. Millepied choreographed the film, for which Portman won the Oscar for best actress. They wed in 2012 and share two children.

WWE, a social media powerhouse, tops 100 million subscribers on YouTube

As WWE gears up for its biggest annual premium live event next month, the company continues to harness the power of its social media presence to reach its fans. A key component of that strategy is YouTube, where WWE has hit an important milestone: surpassing 100 million subscribers. YouTube has about 2.49 billion active users currently and is the second most popular social media platform after Facebook, according to DataReportal. And 47% of all internet users around the world access YouTube monthly. WWE, a sports entertainment company that is part of TKO Group, is also among the top 10 most subscribed YouTube channels globally, with no professional sports leagues currently in that mix. Others in the top 10 include Indian record label and film production company T-Series, Sony Entertainment Television and social media personalities MrBeast and PewDiePie. WWE joined YouTube three years after its launch and says that the company currently has more than 81 billion lifetime views on the platform.

Anthony Hopkins' tricks to acting are really quite simple

LONDON (AP)—Now that he's been doing it for well over half a century, Anthony Hopkins believes acting is much "easier" now.

"As you get older, you have a little more knowledge of life. When you're young, you think you know a thing or two, but you don't. When you get to my age, you know a couple of tricks for a living," the 86-year-old, who stars as real-life hero Nicholas Winton in "One Life," said in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

His "tricks" to acting are very simple: "Just learn the lines, show up and try to be real."

To play Winton in the movie out March 15, a stockbroker responsible for saving more than 600 children during World War



This image released by Bleecker Street shows Anthony Hopkins in a scene from "One Life."

II, Hopkins studied the way he walked and talked, watching his interviews and docuseries appearance. His performance was given the seal of approval by Winton's son.

"It was easy because I didn't have to act old, I am old," Hopkins said, smiling.

Nevertheless, "One Life" director James Hawes highlights Hopkins' "young spir-

it," adding that the knight of the realm "bloody loves what he does," and has a continued passion for movies.

"He would sit on an apple box on the edge of set and watch people rigging lights and rigging track because he has a joy for the world he's in," Hawes explained, adding, "he just wants to be there and part of the process."

"One Life" is told in two parts as the young Winton, played by Johnny Flynn, spearheads the extraordinary feat of arranging trains to transport children out of Prague. Hopkins plays the older Winton, looking back on his life but still haunted by images of children he couldn't rescue—specifically aboard the final train that didn't make it out of Prague.

Altruistic volunteer is kept on the sidelines

DEAR ABBY: On paper, I'm an accomplished woman. I have a doctorate in Educational Leadership and had a 36-year career in education, mostly as a school administrator. I am financially stable and I have many friends. I also have an overwhelming sense of loneliness, and this is where my issues lie.

I was well accepted when I lived in the North, but since moving to Florida, I have had trouble breaking into volunteerism. It took five years before I was accepted for volunteer jobs in my community, and only because of a board member's intervention. I have been told there are no openings on certain committees until they hear my background from someone. I joined a philanthropy group, which costs me more than \$1,000 a year, and as often as they ask for volunteers, I am never accepted.

Recently, there was a social event sponsored by this group. I was not invited. I learned about it only when someone offered me a ride. When I asked my doctor for the name of someone I could talk to, as the fault must lie within me, he was dismissive. I am sinking further into loneliness and don't know what to do. Do you have any suggestions?

OFF TRACK IN STUART, FL

DEAR OFF TRACK: Are you affiliated with a religious institution in your community? If so, it might benefit you to talk with the clergyperson and ask why you may have been excluded from volunteering. In most communities, there's a

crying need for people to donate their time and help. If that conversation doesn't provide insight regarding the attitude toward new arrivals in town, it may be time to consider relocating to a more welcoming city, one with opportunities for folks who would like to share their time and talents.

P.S. If there are more Northerners like yourself who have been pushed aside, consider forming a group of your own and socializing with them. You might make some more wonderful friends if you do.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a male, 75 years old, happily married for 45 years. We are in good health. We had two kids, a wonderful daughter who has given us two beautiful grandkids, and a son who we unfortunately lost to cancer 20 years ago.

My problem is, I have bad dreams. Sometimes, they border on nightmares and I don't understand why. If I have 100 dreams, 99 are bad. Two nights ago, I woke up screaming from one of them. I have no stress, we are financially secure and life is good.

I have spoken to two professionals about this and there are no answers to my problem. Have you heard of this and have you any advice?

BAD NIGHTS IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR BAD NIGHTS: I have heard of this in connection with PTSD. With the clear understanding that I am not li-

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



censed to practice medicine (or psychotherapy) in any state of the U.S., I will share my take on what is happening to you. I have been told that dreams can be a way our unconscious tries to work out problems or trauma, which might include the untimely death of your son.

I am sorry you didn't mention what kind of doctors you have consulted about your nightmares. Some sessions with a licensed psychotherapist with expertise in the treatment of PTSD might be helpful in resolving your problem.

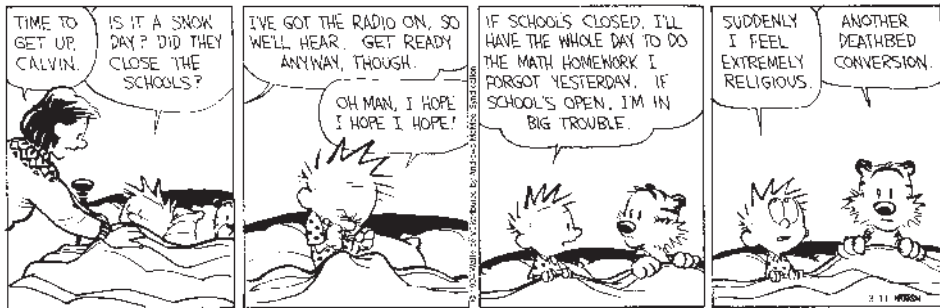
■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

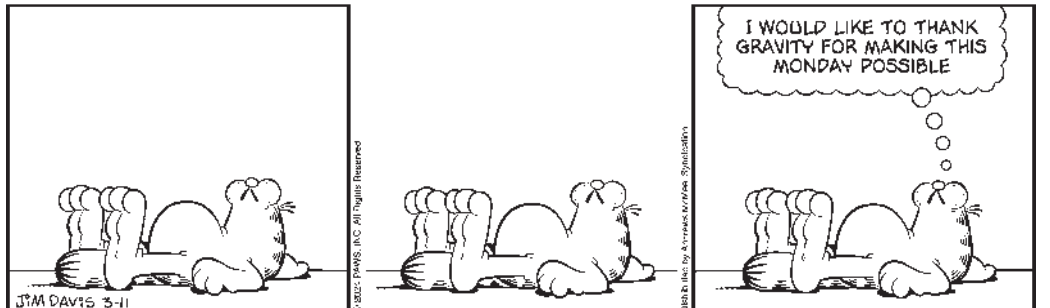
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Gl show org.
4 Chest muscle
7 Dorm alter-native
11 Salad utensil
13 Palindromic constellation
14 Hindu deity
15 Portent
16 Russian space station
17 Dutch cheese
18 Pacific island group
20 Secret language
22 Your
24 Anne Rice character
28 Rock band guitar player
32 Vodka brand
33 Stir up
34 Journey part
36 Soon, poetically

DOWN

1 Sci-fi fleet
2 "Brave New World" drug
3 Utah city
4 Actress Dawber
5 Idle of Monty Python
6 Yule tune
7 Unsupported, as a wall
8 "Awesome, dude!"
9 "I — Rock"
10 Highland hat
12 "Dallas" spin-off starring Donna Mills
19 Sushi fish
21 — Moines
23 Designer monogram
25 Writer Morrison
26 Oodles
27 Wee
28 Bikini parts
29 Summer month, in Arles
30 iPhone voice
31 Journalist Koppel
35 Tonic's mixer
38 R-V link
40 Understood
42 Repe- tant
45 Fill up
47 Inventor Jethro
48 Big fusses
49 Salamander
50 Short do
51 Gardner of "Mogambo"
52 Author Deighton
54 Drench

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	S	W	A	N	R	A	M	C	P	R
S	I	I	R	C	S	S	I	I	O	E
I	F	N	T	O	D	A	G	W	O	D
W	F	N	T	U	P	O	I	I	I	Y
O	N	O	S	A	G	T	E	R	S	F
R	O	O	S	T	E	N	O	F		
I	M	D	O	N	E	Y	O	U	B	E
R	U	R	A	L	L	O	R	E		
A	P	A	R	T	B	O	S	X	E	D
M	I	S	O	W	I	N	N	O	W	
P	L	Y	W	O	O	D	A	I	O	L
L	E	E	A	R	E	G	O	O	E	Y
E	S	I	T	I	M	S	S	E	D	G

Last Friday's Answer

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anthony Davis, 31; Thora Birch, 42; Johnny Knoxville, 53; Terrence Howard, 55.

Happy Birthday: Take control. Step outside your comfort zone, be innovative and be responsible for your happiness. Having a positive attitude, being disciplined and having the desire to go the distance will position you for success. Don't let challenges or opposition daunt you when it should fuel the fire to go above and beyond to reach your destination of choice. You can surpass your expectations if you believe in yourself. Your numbers are 7, 11, 19, 27, 34, 41, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Reach out to someone who motivates you to see things uniquely. Discussions will prompt you to sign up for something that impacts your lifestyle and fills your heart with joy. Offer your time and skills, and you will make a difference. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let the changes around you slow you down. Take the initiative to work behind closed doors where you can use discretion. The options available will determine whether you follow your heart or someone else's dream. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Distance yourself from those who don't share your concerns or beliefs. You owe it to yourself to put your thoughts and energy into something that matters. What you do and say will help build a strong base for success. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let anger or anxiety set in when discipline and completing things on time are necessary. Be the one to initiate change and to be open to suggestions and compromise. Take a

unique approach to how you use your skills, and you'll achieve your goal. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Sit tight, observe and learn from the experience. Revisit how you handle money and health issues, and devise a plan that favors saving and fitness. Turn your routine into a fine-tuned machine, and you'll master living the good life. Love and self-gratification are on the rise. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put yourself in situations that encourage learning. You will discover something that can help you fine-tune your routine and long-term goals. The experience you gain will help you recognize where you belong and who you want at your table. Plan and execute your next move. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make every penny, thought and adjustment count. Use your intellect and intuition to bring about the changes that affirm your sanity and encourage you to take better care of yourself and what's important to you. A partnership will prove to be more helpful than anticipated. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let your creative juices take over, and you'll devise a plan that will encourage positive changes at home and the desire to broaden your horizons by participating in something that interests you. The changes you make will lead to personal growth. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Think before you act. The temptation to push through situations without considering the consequences will arise. Take a moment to follow your thoughts and see where they lead before you put your foot in your mouth and say something you regret. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Control your emotions. Choose self-improvement over trying to force your will on others. You'll gain ground if you keep up with trends and are open to learning and gaining experience. Don't labor over domestic changes you can't control. Work with what's available. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Count your pennies. Don't let sales or deals tempt you. Channel your energy into becoming more eco-friendly. You will have better peace of mind and more free time to enjoy nature and see what living in harmony can do for the soul. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Let your thoughts flow and your imagination wander. Your suggestions will spark insight and interest in those who can help you fine-tune what you do next. Opportunity is apparent; contributing what you can offer will open doors to new beginnings. ***

Birthday Baby: You are resourceful, considerate and reflective. You are sincere and deliberate.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

9						8	7	1
1	4	5				7	3	6
8			3		6			
5		8		7				9
6	1	3		9				
4				6		5		
			6		9	7	2	
			8					
		9	7	3	5	1	4	6

Difficulty: ★

3/11

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

3	7	2	1	5	8	4	9	6
9	6	1	7	3	4	2	5	8
5	4	8	9	6	2	3	1	7
7	8	4	2	9	6	5	3	1
6	2	3	5	7	1	8	4	9
1	9	5	4	8	3	7	6	2
8	5	6	3	2	9	1	7	4
4	3	9	8	1	7	6	2	5
2	1	7	6	4	5	9	8	3

Difficulty: ****

4/8

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

RAMADAN

Solution: 14 letters

Y D U T S H A W W A L N N I J
R A T F I R T I F L A D I E O
H D E G H M C T O E E O N S Y
O G A U R A E Y L O H T T H O
L N C W Q S N A T L N S H A U
I I H Y N S N M S H R A P R S
D V R U A T O A A A A R T E L
A I S W E N C M L E A L T E U
Y G M R T C U L M D D A L L F
N N N H E H I U N N D I U A K
I I O M A P S E S I R N U S N
T T O M E L L D E A A A U G A
S S M V I A A T Y R W D E E H
E A I M C E M A N G E L R L T
D F N A R U Q Y T I R A H C S

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3/11

Allah, Angel, Calendar, Charity, Connect, Dates, Dawn, Deed, Destiny, Diet, Donate, Dusk, Eid al-Fitr, Fasting, Five Pillars, Giving, Guide, Holiday, Holy, Iftar, Islam, Joyous, Lantern, Last, Learn, Lunar, Mecca, Month, Moon, Mosque, Muhammad, Muslim, Ninth, Quran, Read, Reward, Sawn, Share, Shawwal, Study, Sunrise, Sunset, Teach, Thankful, Time, Year

Last Friday's Answer: Secrets

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Doncic is 1st to record 6 straight 30-point triple-doubles as Mavs beat Pistons



DETROIT (AP)—Luka Doncic became the first NBA player to record six consecutive 30-point triple-doubles as the Dallas Mavericks pulled away in the second half and beat the Detroit Pistons 142-124 on Saturday night.

Doncic finished with 39 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds, eclipsing Russell Westbrook's mark of five straight 30-point triple-doubles. He also extended his own record with a fifth straight 35-point triple-double.

Kyrie Irving added 21 points for Dallas, which has won two in a row after a three-game losing streak.

Cade Cunningham had 33 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds for the Pistons, who have lost 10 of 12. Simone Fontecchio added a career-high 27 points.

CELTICS 117, SUNS 107

PHOENIX (AP)—Jayson Tatum scored 29 points, Jaylen Brown added 27 and NBA-leading Boston beat Phoenix.

The Celtics came into the game on a rare two-game skid after dropping games to the Cleveland Cavaliers and Denver Nuggets. After Saturday's win, Boston still hasn't lost three in a row and improved to 49-14 overall.

The Suns—playing without injured All-Star Devin Booker—were led by Kevin Du-



AP
Detroit Pistons guard Cade Cunningham (2) is defended by Dallas Mavericks guard Josh Green during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, March 9, 2024, in Detroit.

rant's 45 points on 18-for-26 shooting. Bradley Beal added 25 points while Jusuf Nurkic scored 11 and grabbed 11 rebounds.

Brown scored 18 points to lead the Celtics to a 62-50 half-time advantage and they never trailed in the second half.

SPURS 126, WARRIORS 113

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Keldon Johnson had 22 points and 11 rebounds, and a San Antonio team without Victor Wembanyama beat a Golden State team without Stephen Curry.

Jeremy Sochan and Malaki Branham each scored 20 points for San Antonio, which had dropped seven of nine. Julian Champag-

nie had 17 points and seven rebounds.

Klay Thompson came off the bench to score 27 points for Golden State, which dropped consecutive games for the first time since Jan. 25-27 to the Kings and Lakers—also at home in Chase Center.

Both Curry and Spurs rookie Wembanyama sat out with right ankle injuries.

NUGGETS 142, JAZZ 121

DENVER (AP)—Nikola Jokic played through a bruised right arm that kept him out of shootaround and finished with 26 points, six rebounds and eight assists as Denver beat short-handed Utah.

Jamal Murray scored 37 points and Michael Porter Jr. added 19 points for Denver, which led by as many as 39 points in the first half, which helped to withstand a third-quarter letdown.

Keyonte George led Utah with 29 points and fueled the Jazz's third-quarter surge that made it more respectable and had the sellout crowd buzzing over a potential historic collapse.

HORNETS 110, NETS 99

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Miles Bridges had 24 points and 10 rebounds, Brandon Miller added 23 points and Charlotte delivered another blow to Brooklyn's sagging playoff hopes.

Nick Richards added 15 points and 11 rebounds and

Vasa Micic chipped in with 12 points and 10 assists for the Hornets (16-48), who snapped a six-game losing streak.

Cam Thomas returned from a six-game absence due to an ankle injury and scored 31 points, but the Nets (25-39) fell 4 1/2 games behind the Atlanta Hawks for the 10th and final play-in spot in the Eastern Conference with their third loss in four games.

TRAIL BLAZERS 125, RAPTORS 118, OT

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Deandre Ayton returned from a right hand sprain and had a season-high 30 points and 19 rebounds to help the Trail Blazers beat the Raptors.

Dalano Banton had 25 points and Anfernee Simons added 23 to snap a three-game Portland losing streak. The Blazers (18-45) were playing the second of a back-to-back after a 123-107 loss to the Houston Rockets on Friday night.

Immanuel Quickley scored 29 points and Gary Trent Jr. added 23 for the Raptors, who have won just once in the last five games. Toronto (23-41) was coming off a 120-113 loss at the Phoenix Suns on Thursday.

CLIPPERS 112, BULLS 102

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Paul George scored 22 points, Kawhi Leonard added 19 and Los Angeles rallied for its third straight victory and fourth win in six games.

James Harden had his second triple-double of the season with 14 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists. Norman Powell came off the bench and scored 18 points, including a pair of 3-pointers early in the fourth quarter as the Clippers scored 11 straight points to open the period after trailing 85-83 after three. Ivica Zubac had 10 of his 16 points in the third quarter as Los Angeles came back from a 16-point deficit early in the period.

DeMar DeRozan had 24 points and 10 assists, but the Bulls had their three-game winning streak snapped. Nikola Vucevic added 22 points and 11 rebounds.

Patty Mills looking to make amends in Miami now

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

MIAMI (AP)—Patty Mills still remembers being upset when Miami beat San Antonio in the 2013 NBA Finals. And he knows Heat fans probably haven't forgiven him for his role in the Spurs topping the Heat the following season in the title-series rematch.

Mills is hoping to win those fans over now.

The newest member of the Heat was with the team in Dallas on Thursday for his first game in a Miami uniform, after being signed one day earlier to a deal for the remainder of the season. At 35, he believes he can still bring plenty to a contender—which is why he wanted to be in Miami, and he already sees parallels between Heat culture and the way the Spurs operated during his nine years in San Antonio.

"I think where I'm at in my career and what I've already been able to accomplish, being a part of a culture like this, a winning environment, one goal in mind and understanding that the different aspects of people playing their part, playing their role to be able

to achieve the goal, that's definitely the backbone for me and what I've come from and what my values are," Mills said. "I think there's a lot of values there that realign with what the culture is here."

Mills had a 14-point third quarter for the Spurs in Game 5 of the 2014 NBA Finals, going 4-for-4 on 3-pointers in a 4-minute span of that period and that burst pretty much ensured that the title series wouldn't go past that night in San Antonio. The Spurs clinched the title with a 104-87 win, the last game that LeBron James, Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade would play together as Heat teammates.

Mills played mostly sparingly in 19 games with Atlanta off the bench this season before getting waived on Feb. 29, in time to preserve his postseason eligibility with another team. The Heat will become the fifth NBA team that Mills has played for, along with San Antonio, Portland, Brooklyn and the Hawks.

"I just think he's another really good fit for a lot of different reasons," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said before

Miami's game in Dallas on Thursday. "Stylistically, the way he plays, the way he competes. Offensively he can create space, and his catch-and-shoot game, dribble-hand-off game is something we already have in our system. And then his professionalism, his leadership, all of those things are added values to what we have going.

"And also, I'm tired of being on the other side of him being a Heat killer," Spoelstra added. "Getting him to join us, that's a really good thing. I have deep respect for him."

Mills has tons of big-game experience—95 NBA playoff games, two trips to the NBA Finals (both with the Spurs, both against Miami), four trips to the conference finals and he's a four-time Olympian for Australia. Mills plans to be with the Boomers for a fifth Olympic appearance this summer at the Paris Games.

"You look at it for the next few months, you know what's on the table in terms of goals to accomplish," Mills said. "I'm super excited about put-

ting all the eggs in one basket over here. I'm expecting there to be a huge, huge few months coming up—starting here with the Heat and then off to Paris with the Boomers."

The Heat valued his experience and needed some more depth at point guard after Josh Richardson—who dislocated a shoulder in a game against Boston last month—opted to have surgery this week that ended any chance of him returning before next season. Miami agreed to the deal with Mills on Tuesday, the same day it was announced Richardson would have his season-ending procedure on Wednesday.

"It's a shame," Spoelstra said. "Some of these things happen. You can't control it. He has a great spirit going into it, the surgery went really well. We're looking forward to rehabbing him and getting him ready for next year."

The Heat created roster space for Mills by waiving injured guard Dru Smith, who is rehabbing after an ACL injury. Spoelstra indicated that the Heat still have Smith in their future plans by saying the team will "still be able to help him with his rehab."

Pacers' Mathurin will have right shoulder surgery and miss the rest of the season

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Indiana Pacers guard Benndict Mathurin will have surgery to repair a torn labrum in his right shoulder and will miss the rest of the season.

The Pacers said Saturday that the procedure will be performed next week in Los Angeles by Dr. Neal ElAttrache.

Mathurin was averaging 14.5 points in his second NBA

season. He was the MVP of the Rising Stars Challenge at All-Star weekend, which was played in Indianapolis.

A first-team selection to the All-Rookie team last season, Mathurin had 19 points Tuesday in a victory at Dallas before he was injured.

The Pacers added that he was expected to fully recover in time for the 2024-25 season.

Flurry of veteran salary dumps floods free agency with surplus of safeties



ENGLEWOOD, Colo.

(AP)—Justin Simmons' release isn't just collateral damage from the Russell Wilson debacle in Denver, but the latest sign of a shifting of priorities in the NFL that's resulted in a surplus of safeties flooding the free agent market.

Like inside linebackers and running backs before them,

safeties are finding that teams are more and more inclined to prioritize passers, pass rushers, offensive and defensive linemen, wide receivers and cornerbacks.

This trend, combined with the \$85 million in dead cap charges facing the Broncos when they release Wilson as the new league year begins Wednesday, resulted in the Broncos cutting ties with Sim-



Denver Broncos safety Justin Simmons is seen during warmups before an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions, Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023, in Detroit.

mons to save \$14.5 million.

A cornerstone of the community, Simmons is a perennial All-Pro who leads the NFL with 30 interceptions since joining in the league in 2016. He also holds the distinction of having the most interceptions—five—of three-time Super Bowl champion Patrick Mahomes.

Simmons immediately shot toward the top of available free agents, but his age (30), the glut of talent at his position and this shift in teams' financial focus could keep his earning power from skyrocketing.

When the New York Giants decided not to place one of their tags on Xavier McKinnley, the free safety who allowed zero touchdowns last season looked prime to cash in as the cream of the safeties in free agency.

Then, the market was flooded as teams began dumping higher-priced safeties, including some with All-Pro pedigree such as Simmons, Kevin Byard, Eddie Jackson and Jordan Poyer.

Jamal Adams, Eddie Jackson, Quandre Diggs and Rayshawn Jenkins also were cut this week and Marcus Maye is designated for a post-June 1 release from the Saints.

Poyer's departure from Buffalo was part of the Bills' massive makeover as they entered the offseason a projected NFL-high \$44 million over the salary cap, neces-

sitating the release of five veterans and the restructuring of Von Miller's contract.

The Philadelphia Eagles cleared some \$13 million in cap space by releasing Byard, a two-time All-Pro who, like Simmons, is 30 years old. He had one interception and 75 tackles in 10 games for the Eagles, who acquired him from Tennessee last season.

Chicago cut ties with Jackson, who had 15 interceptions and returned three for touchdowns in seven seasons. He also ran back three fumble recoveries for scores. He was an All-Pro in 2018 when he had six interceptions and two pick-6s.

The Seahawks' release of both Adams and Diggs leaves Julian Love as the only safety with extensive playing time on Seattle's roster.

Injuries kept Adams from living up to his hefty pricetag in four disappointing seasons in Seattle but Diggs made three straight Pro Bowls from 2020-22 after coming over from Detroit via a trade in 2019.

The Jaguars released Jenkins along with two other starters, cornerback Darius Williams and defensive tackle Foley Fatukasi, to create \$20 million in salary cap space.

The only safety franchise-tagged for 2024 was the Buccaneers' Antoine Winfield, guaranteeing him \$17.123 million next season, a number the slew of safeties on the open market will be hard-pressed to reach.

KANEYAMA

From page 16

Angela Taflinger claimed first in the 40-44 at 4:32:23; Rosemarie Chisato was first in the 45-49 at 4:55:34; Malou Carlos clocked in first in the 50-54 at 5:42:55; Junko Okamoto was first in the 55-59 at 5:30:48; and in the 60+, Chun Jae Geum came in first at 5:28:10.

Kaneyama, who has run marathons in Japan, said he had always wanted to join a marathon abroad, so decided to join the Saipan Marathon. The government worker was still spry and full of energy during the awards banquet held that evening at the Hyatt Regency Saipan—as if

he didn't just run a marathon that morning—and said he definitely would want to return to Saipan. However, he's still unsure whether he will come back next year to defend his title. As for the course, he said the weather conditions were good, making for a good run.

For 32-year-old Lee, she said she came into the race without expectations at all and just wanted to run a sub 4-hour marathon.

She said she didn't do much training for it, but that she was ready as she could be, just as she is for anything in her life. For her, the event itself had the best aid-stations in all the marathons she's joined. As for the course, she said it was



LEIGH GASES

Women age group winners of the 26.2-mile/42.195-kilometer full marathon course of the Skechers Saipan Marathon 2024 that spanned from the starting line at the Thunder Chicken in Chalan Laulau to Banzai Cliff and to the finish line at the Hyatt Regency Saipan parking lot last Saturday. Third from left, Chun Jae Geum, Rosemarie Chisato, and Malou Carlos pose with their prizes during the awards banquet last Saturday night at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.



LEIGH GASES

Men age group winners pose for a photo with their prizes during the awards banquet last Saturday night at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. They trekked the 26.2-mile/42.195-kilometer full marathon course of the Skechers Saipan Marathon 2024 that spanned from the starting line at the Thunder Chicken in Chalan Laulau to Banzai Cliff and to the finish line at the Hyatt Regency Saipan parking lot last Saturday.

"pretty hilly, but I expected it, so I wasn't surprised by it." This marathon was the first she's joined since 2022 and decided to join this year be-

cause her friend invited her.

Results of the half marathon, 10K, and 5K divisions will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

TWO

From page 16

Sanchez gave MHS their advantage starting in the first half when he put up 11 points, and was assisted by Aiden Suba's 9, and Khristian David's 8 points.

Both teams' defenses were rough but MHS' strategy was man-to-man, which resulted in multiple trips to the charity line by SSHS in the first half. Despite the free points, SSHS lagged behind to an all-around explosive MHS team.

Come the last half, Sanchez continued to rack up points. Sean Licayan entered the mix and became another burst of energy that helped lengthened the lead. In the end, Sanchez top-scored with 17 points, while Suba scored 13, Licayan shot 11, and David put up 10. SSHS' top scorers were Heman Addy with 12, Slymark Defang with 10, and Kian Helgen with 8.

The rest of the MHS roster included Elijah Ye, Marl Balignasay, Jan Catubo, MD



LEIGH GASES

Champions Marianas High School boys varsity basketball team poses for a group photo with their coach Dan Wollack, second to right, and MHS leadership, during the awards ceremony of the 2023-2024 IT&E Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League last Saturday at a jam-packed Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Islam, Mokyang Kim, Webb Alano, Kenny Laquian, Marc Tengco, Andy Jiang, Stephen Diyco, and Joseph Paraiso.

Third place went to Mount Carmel School after SSHS defeated them, 64-48.

MHS teacher and boys basketball team head coach Dan Wollack said after the championships that it felt "awesome" winning two in row. "Three years ago, we came really close to winning and didn't happen, so it feels great to have a perfect season

and run it back with these boys," he said.

The difference this season from last, said Wollack, was that a lot of their players have been in the program for a few years now.

"They really understand what we're trying to do offensively, the ball movement, and the player movement. So, this year, our goal was really 100% defense—every possession, make them take difficult shots. We really wanted to commit to playing man-to-man. Most

teams play zone and we just really wanted to be that team that plays tough man-to-man defense and makes them battle for every shot," he said.

As for their championship game against SSHS, he said that they fought really hard and had some talented players. However, with his 15-player team, he said he trusts all of them. "Our depth helps us win games," said Wollack. Out of the whole team, seven players are graduating, but Wollack is confident in the team that's returning, as well as their JV teams.

He then thanked his wife for putting up with the crazy hours, coach Preston Basa, the MHS admin, and the whole PSS Athletics Program.

MHS 64—Sanchez 17, Suba 13, Licayan 11, David 10, Ye 9, Balignasay 2, Catubo 2.

SSHS 48—Addy 12, Defang 10, Helgen 8, Andon 7, Navarro 5, Enriquez 4, Olaes 2.

Scoring by halves: 35-25, 64-48.

SONG

From page 16

sions in the near future because he's a much lighter guy. "It was extremely taxing on my body against opponents 50-70 lbs heavier than me," he said.

Song is now preparing to compete in the 2024 Marianas Pro Korea Gi/No-Gi Tournament in South Korea on June 16.

"My achievement goes out

to my professor Cuki Alvarez, the man who keeps the martial arts alive in the Marianas. Thank you to my coaches Rey Kim and Ken Tanzawa. It was such an honor to be trained by the best of the best; and professor Anthony Torres and professor Oliver Cruz of Purebred Guam. And of course, my jiu jitsu family who shows up every day helping me train. Y'all are the real champs and this win goes to all of us," said Song.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ballen Song, left, in action during a competition in the Gi division of the Grapplers Quest Guam Gi/No-Gi Tournament last Jan. 27-28 at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.



Doncic is 1st to record 6 straight 30-point triple-doubles as Mavs beat Pistons.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kaneyama, Lee fastest in Saipan Marathon

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Japan's Yuki Kaneyama was the fastest overall runner, while the U.S. Navy's Hana Lee outran every woman in the return of the full marathon course of the Saipan Marathon.

The new 42.195-kilometer full marathon course of the Skechers Saipan Marathon 2024 spanned from the starting line at the Thunder Chicken in Chalan Laulau to Banzai Cliff and to the finish line at the Hyatt Regency Saipan parking lot.

While the rest of Saipan snoozed away in bed, 70 full marathon runners woke up before the early bird and braved the 26.2-mile trek to the wild north at 4:30am, with 24-year-old Kaneyama outpacing each one of them and setting the new course record with a sub 2:45:00 at 2:44:45.

Second to Kaneyama was countryman Shohei Miyamoto at less than two minutes behind with a time of 2:46:21. Third place overall was China's Ni Yusheng at 2:57:53.

Guam-based Lee, on the other hand, clocked in just as the sun was beaming its early

morning rays in the sky with a time of 3:31:54. Aspen Egbert claimed second place with a time of 4:17:07, and third place went to the CNMI's very own An Bang at 4:23:40.

Kaneyama and Lee won a roundtrip airline ticket



LEIGH GASES

Japan's Yuki Kaneyama is the first overall to finish the new 26.2-mile/42.195-kilometer full marathon course of the Skechers Saipan Marathon 2024 that spanned from the starting line at the Thunder Chicken in Chalan Laulau to Banzai Cliff and to the finish line at the Hyatt Regency Saipan parking lot last Saturday.



LEIGH GASES

U.S. Navy's Hana Lee

based in Guam is the first woman to finish the new 26.2-mile/42.195-kilometer full marathon course of the Skechers Saipan Marathon 2024 that spanned from the starting line at the Thunder Chicken in Chalan Laulau to Banzai Cliff and to the finish line at the Hyatt Regency Saipan parking lot last Saturday.

from either Japan or Saipan to anywhere in Micronesia from United Airlines.

In the men's age division rankings, Zihang Zhang was first in the 18-and-under with a time of 6:28:04; Michael Plummer snagged first in the men's open at 3:54:19; in the 35-39, Echiyoga Tadashi was first at 4:35:48; Jensen Damon claimed first in the 40-44 at 3:21:11; Michal Biedrzycki was first in the 45-49 at 3:07:10; Ronald Villafria was first in the 50-54 at

3:58:15; Yatabe Satoshi came in first at 4:28:10 in the 55-59; and Chong Nam Lee was first in the 60+ at 4:40:22.

In the women's age division rankings, Ahran Kim was first in the women's open at 4:30:50;

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Song grapples way to silver, bronze in Grapplers Quest Guam

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



Martial artist Ballen Song grappled his way to silver in the men's gi/white/featherweight division and bronze in the No-Gi Absolute open weight division of the Grapplers Quest Guam last Jan. 27-28 at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.

In the men's gi/white/featherweight division, Song defeated Beato Manglona, then Sebastian Riley to advance to the gold medal matchup. Song then lost via submission against Guam's Landon Taitingfong and settled for silver.

In the open weight division, Song grabbed the bronze after he lost to Taitingfong via a 3-0 scoring. First place went to Jackson Sullivan, while Taitingfong claimed silver.

Of Korean descent and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ballen Song shows off his silver and bronze hardware along with Justis "Cuki" Alvarez, left of Song, and fellow martial artists, after his competition in the Grapplers Quest Guam Gi/No-Gi Tournament last Jan. 27-28 at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.

raised on Saipan since he was 10 years old, Song was the only CNMI athlete in the competition out of about 300 registered athletes, and with that, he said it was a lot of pressure.

On why he competed, Song said he was excited to sign up and test his skills he's been

honing. He had already trained for six months, then picked up the intensity of training in the next four months before the competition. "I'd recommend others to train more than a year before competing, because I rushed in not knowing how deep the water was," he said.

"Shout out to One Championship fighter/champion Brandon Vera and his wife for making the event available for athletes to compete," said Song.

The 28-year-old said that the competition level in Guam was "extremely high" and that once he walked in the stadium, his "palms were sweating, knees weak, and arms felt heavy, but on the surface, I looked calm and ready standing next to my opponent," said Song.

He didn't want to fly back home empty-handed and said the skills he learned in TrenchTech Gym under Justis "Cuki" Alvarez helped him submit his opponents in 30 seconds twice in different divisions.

Song started jiu jitsu because he realized "it's a great way to keep your body in shape but also learn how to defend yourself when situations call for it." He then said he wouldn't compete in open weight divi-

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Two-peat for MHS boys basketball team

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Marianas High School Dolphins are creating a dynasty after clinching their second straight basketball title with a win against Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays, 64-48, in the championship game of the 2023-2024 IT&E Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League last Saturday at a jam-packed Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Dolphins beamed as bright as their yellow jerseys that matched the gym's bleachers and outshone the Manta Rays throughout the

game. If the first half was a close one with a 10-point lead in favor of the Dolphins, their lead only burgeoned in the second half.

Multiple missed opportunities by the Manta Rays with less than two minutes left failed to yield results. Rebounds and quick, inaccurate releases prolonged their possession but to no avail as all their shots missed while the Mighty Dolphins leaped and muscled their way to protect the basket.

At this point, the Dolphins already had a hefty lead and were left to just defend and kill time. Leading scorer Charlz

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LEIGH GASES

Marianas High School's Aiden Suba gets fouled by a Saipan Southern High School player on a floater during the finals of the 2023-2024 IT&E Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League last Saturday at a jam-packed Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.